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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3596
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE 7341
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0425

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 005551

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/02/2016
TAGS: [KUNR](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [UNHRC](#) [IR](#) [ID](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO INDONESIA ON IRAN'S HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL CANDIDACY

REF: A. STATE 66050 (CANDIDACY OF IRAN)

[1](#)B. STATE 68575 (FOLLOW-UP ON CANDIDACY OF IRAN)

Classified By: Marc L. Desjardins, Political Counselor. Reason: 1.4 (b
, d)

[1](#)1. (SBU) We met May 2 with with Jonny Sinaga, Deputy Director of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs at the Indonesian Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), to deliver demarches contained reftels on our opposition to Iran's candidacy for the UN Council on Human Rights. Drawing on talking points in reftel A, we stressed that we were committed to a Human Rights Council that was an improvement over the old Human Rights Commission. Moreover, criteria in the UNGA resolution setting up the Human Rights Council clearly preclude countries with human rights records like Iran's from membership on the council, we argued. We pointed out that the Asia Group and the OIC, both of which Indonesia belongs to, have many Human Rights Council candidates better qualified than Iran, and that we believed that debate should focus on these rather than candidacies such as Iran's, which by any rational standard should be obvious non-starters.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Sinaga agreed that the new Council should be more credible than the old Human Rights Commission, and that only members with good human rights records could make this possible. He repeated his view, expressed in previous meetings, that the U.S. non-candidacy was a loss for the international community. Indonesia, he said, hopes that the U.S. will seek membership in the near future. While stopping short of committing not to support for Iran, Sinaga acknowledged that its candidacy was problematic. Iran, he said, had not demarched Jakarta seeking support so far.

[1](#)3. (C) Comment. Iranian President Ahmadinejad will make a state visit to Indonesia prior to the D-8 meeting in Bali May 12 - 14. Despite this, it should be easy for Indonesia to vote against Iranian HRC membership if voting is secret. The GOI is very much focused on its own bid for membership on the Council. End comment.
PASCOE